

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 38

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Page 97-98, 18/10/2016

Topic: Reduction in touring artist to Australia

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

Senator BILYK: I think that one will go to immigration. Were you asked for input into whether you think these changes would reduce the number of touring artists coming to Australia? I mean if you have been working from department to department one presumes you were asked for input, so I am interested in what that input was from the department.

Ms Bassar: I would need to get that to you on notice in terms of the details of those decisions.

Senator BILYK: While you are doing it on notice can you just let me know what other areas were discussed in those consultations?

Ms Bassar: Certainly.

Senator BILYK: Can you also give me the date of the consultation?

Ms Bassar: Certainly.

Answer:

A joint review of the Temporary Work (Entertainment) visa (Subclass 420) commenced in January 2015, with the release of a discussion paper that provided discussion on key components of the Migration Regulations underpinning the subclass 420 for review: the requirement for a certificate from the Minister for the Arts for screen performers; net employment benefit requirements; union consultation requirements; the application of bulk discounts; and the requirements for non-profit engagements and cultural performers. The review was commenced in support of the Australian Government's commitment to reducing the burden and cost of unnecessary or inefficient regulation imposed on individuals, business and community organisations.

Thirty-eight responses were received by the closing date of 23 February 2015 from a range of stakeholders representing producers, directors, production staff, actors, performers, promoters, migration agents, and live performance companies.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection advised that the review of the Temporary Work (Entertainment) visa (subclass 420) is now closed and the Entertainment visa cohort will be incorporated in the new Temporary Activity visa proposed for implementation on 19 November 2016.

Questions on the proposed changes to the temporary work visa structure are a matter for the Immigration and Border Protection portfolio.